

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: ARMY ANNOUNCES NEW POSTINGS FOR GOVERNORS AND
COMMISSIONERS

REF: LAGOS 8732

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN SUMMARY. NIGERIAN ARMY HAS ANNOUNCED NEW
POSTINGS FOR ELEVEN GOVERNORS AND FOUR FEDERAL
COMMISSIONERS AS OF JULY 24. SIMILAR AIR FORCE AND
NAVY ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE EXPECTED SOON. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
COMMISSIONER GARBA POSTED AS COMMANDANT, NIGERIAN
DEFENCE ACADEMY. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ARMY ANNOUNCED JULY 17 NEW POSTINGS FOR ELEVEN
GOVERNORS AND FOUR FEDERAL COMMISSIONERS TO TAKE EFFECT
FROM JULY 24 IN LINE WITH HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO'S
JULY 14 ANNOUNCEMENT. THE AIR FORCE AND NAVY ARE
EXPECTED TO RELEASE THEIR POSTINGS SOON.

2. AS REPORTED IN JULY 18 ISSUE OF DAILY TIMES,
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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER BRIGADIER JOSEPH GARBA
IS POSTED AS COMMANDANT, NIGERIAN DEFENCE ACADEMY;
COMMISSIONER FOR PETROLEUM AND ENERGY COL. MUHAMMAD
BUHARI AS MILITARY SECRETARY (ARMY) IN ARMY HEAD-
QUARTERS "A" BRANCH; COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT COL.
MUHAMMED MAGORO AS COLONEL GENERAL STAFF, HEADQUARTERS,
3 INFANTRY DIVISION; AND FEDERAL COMMISSIONER FOR

EDUCATION COL. AHMADU ALI AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ARMY MEDICAL CORPS, HEADQUARTERS, 1 INFANTRY DIVISION. GARBA, BY VIRTUE OF HIS NEW POSTING, WILL CONTINUE TO BE A MEMBER OF SMC.

3. NEW APPOINTMENTS FOR ELEVEN GOVERNORS AS FOLLOWS:

- A) KWARA STATE: BRIG. GEORGE INNIH, QUARTER-MASTER GENERAL, ARMY HEADQUARTERS
- B) OYO STATE: BRIG. DAVID JEMIBEWON, COMMANDANT, NIGERIAN ARMY SCHOOL OF INFANTRY
- C) BENUE STATE: COL. ABDULLAHI SHELENG, PROVOST MARSHAL, NIGERIAN ARMY CORPS OF MILITARY POLICE
- D) GONGOLA STATE: COL. MOHAMMED D. JEGA, DEPUTY COMMANDANT, NIGERIAN DEFENCE ACADEMY
- E) ANAMBRA STATE: COL. JOHN ATOM-KPERA, COMMANDANT, NIGERIAN ARMY SCHOOL OF MILITARY ENGINEERS
- F) SOKOTO STATE: COL. UMARU A. MOHAMMED, COMMANDER, CORPS OF ARTILLERY, HEADQUARTERS. NIGERIAN ARMY ARTILLERY
- G) CROSS RIVER STATE: COL. PAUL OMU, DIRECTOR OF ARMY STAFF DUTIES, ARMY HEADQUARTERS, "G" BARNCH
- H) KANO STATE: COL. SAN BELLO, COLONEL GENERAL STAFF, ARMY COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE
- I) RIVERS STATE: COL. ZAMANI LEKWOT, COMMANDER, 3 INFANTRY BRIGADE
- J) OGUN STATE: LT. COL. AYODELE BALOGUN, CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMANDANT, SCHOOL OF SUPPLIES AND TRANSPORT
K) BAUCHI STATE: LT. COL. BELLOR KHALIEL, COMMANDANT, NIGERIAN ARMY RESETTLEMENT CENTRE

4. THE NEW ASSIGNMENTS WERE ANNOUNCED BY ADJUTANT GENERAL BRIG. ABBAS WALI, WHO SAID THE NEW APPOINTMENTS ARE BASED ON MERIT AND EXPERIENCE. AT THE SAMTE TIME HE ANNOUNCED A CMPREHENSIVE POSTING OF ALL SENIOR OFFICERS WILL BE RELEASED LATER.

5. ACCORDING TO THE DAIL TIMES, MILITARY MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL AND STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCILS MUST RESIGN BY JULY 24 IF THEY WISH TO CONTINUE THEIR CAREERS IN THE ARMED FORCES. CIVILIAN MEMBERS MUST ALSO RELINQUISH OFFICE BY JULY 24 IF THEY INTEND TO ENTER THE POLITICAL ARENA. THE DAILY TIMES REPORTS THAT HEAD OF STATE OBASANO, CHIEF OF STAFF SUPREME HEADQUARTERS YAR'ADUA, COMMISSIONER FOR LABOR, YOUTH AND SPORTS ADEFOPE AND COMMISSIONER FOR FINANCE OLULEYE HAVE INDICATED THEIR INTENTION NOT TO RETURN TO THE ARMED FORCES WHEN THE MILITARY ADMINISTRATION HANDS POWER OVER TO THE CIVILIANS NEXT YEAR. END

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6. COMMENT: THE ONLY FEDERAL MILITARY COMMISSIONER UNACCOUNTED FOR IS COMMISSIONER FOR TRADE SHUWA. THE REASON MAY LIE IN RUMORS THAT SEVERAL INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES ARE NON IN PROCESS. ACCORDING TO AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT IN THE NEW NIGERIAN, THE MINISTRY OF TRADE WILL BE ABSORBING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF COOPERATIVES AND SUPPLY, WHICH IS BEING DISSOLVED. THE COMMISSIONER FOR COOPERATIVES AND SUPPLY, ALHAJI UMARU MUTALLAH, RECENTLY RESIGNED TO BECOME EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA AND NO ONE HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO SUCCEED
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HIM. THE ALLEGED REASON FOR DISSOLVING THE MINISTRY OF COOPERATIVES AND SUPPLY WAS TO CURTAIL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES.

7. THE ONLY STATE GOVERNOR WHO HAS NOT BEEN RE-DEPLOYED TO MILITARY DUTIES IS NOGER STATE'S COMMANDER UKIWE, WHO WILL BECOME THE MILITARY ADMINISTRATOR OF LAGOS STATE. AS REPORTED LAGOS 14696 (1977) UKIWE IS THE SMC'S "TOKEN IBO" AND HAS BEEN A GOVERNOR FOR ONLY EIGHT MONTHS. ONE OR BOTH FACTS MAY BE THE REASON FOR HIS RETENTION AS A STATE ADMINISTRATOR.

8. THE MOST RECURRENT RUMORS ARE THAT LT. GENERAL DANJUMA WILL NOT RETIRE (AS HE IS ON A PURELY MILITARY ASSIGNMENT HE IS NOT REQUIRED TO) AND THAT INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE YSUF HAS VEHEMENTLY DENIED HE WILL RETIRE NEXT YEAR. END COMMENT.
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